

III. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) An arrangement including:

a variable optical attenuator—(500) including a polarisation rotation medium—(504), and

an optical isolator—(102) including an optical rotator—(208),

~~characterised in that it includes~~ a polariser (506) ~~interposed between said polarisation rotation medium—(504) and said optical rotator—(208),~~ whereby said polariser—(506) is common to both said variable optical attenuator—(500) and said optical isolator—(102), said arrangement comprising an integrated variable optical attenuator and isolator assembly.

2. (Currently Amended) The arrangement of claim 1, ~~characterised in that it includes~~ further comprising an additional polariser—(604) associated with said polarisation rotation medium—(504) in said variable optical attenuator—(500), whereby said polarisation rotation medium—(504) is sandwiched between said additional polariser—(604) and said polariser—(506) common to said variable optical attenuator—(500) and said optical isolator—(102).

3. (Currently Amended) The arrangement of ~~either of~~ claims 1 and 2 ~~claim 1, characterised in that~~ wherein said optical rotator is a Faraday rotator—(208).

4. (Currently Amended) The arrangement of claim 3, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein said optical rotator—(208)

has associated a magnet—(200) with an opening for locating said Faraday rotator—(208).

5. (Currently Amended) The arrangement of ~~either of claims 3 or 4~~claim 3, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said Faraday rotator—(208) is a garnet material.

6. (Currently Amended) The arrangement of ~~any of the previous claims~~claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said polarisation rotation medium—(504) includes a liquid crystal cell—(316).

7. (Currently Amended) The arrangement of ~~any of the previous claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterised in ~~that~~wherein said polarisation rotation medium—(504) includes a Faraday rotator material—(406) and a solenoid—(410) for generating a magnetic field through said Faraday rotator material—(406).

8. (Currently Amended) A component for the arrangement of ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, characterised in ~~that it includes~~comprising said polarisation rotation medium (504) and said common polariser—(506) connected in optical alignment.

9. (Currently Amended) A component for the arrangement of ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, characterised in ~~that it includes~~comprising said optical rotator—(208) having connected therewith an output polariser—(210b).

10. (Currently Amended) A method of assembling the arrangement of ~~any of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, characterised in ~~that it includes the steps of~~comprising:

providing a first component—(700) including said polarisation rotation medium—(504) and said common polariser—(506) connected in optical alignment,

providing a second component—(702) including said optical rotator—(208), and

assembling said first—(700) and second—(702) components by causing said common polariser—(506) to be interposed between said polarisation rotation medium—(504) and said optical rotator—(208).